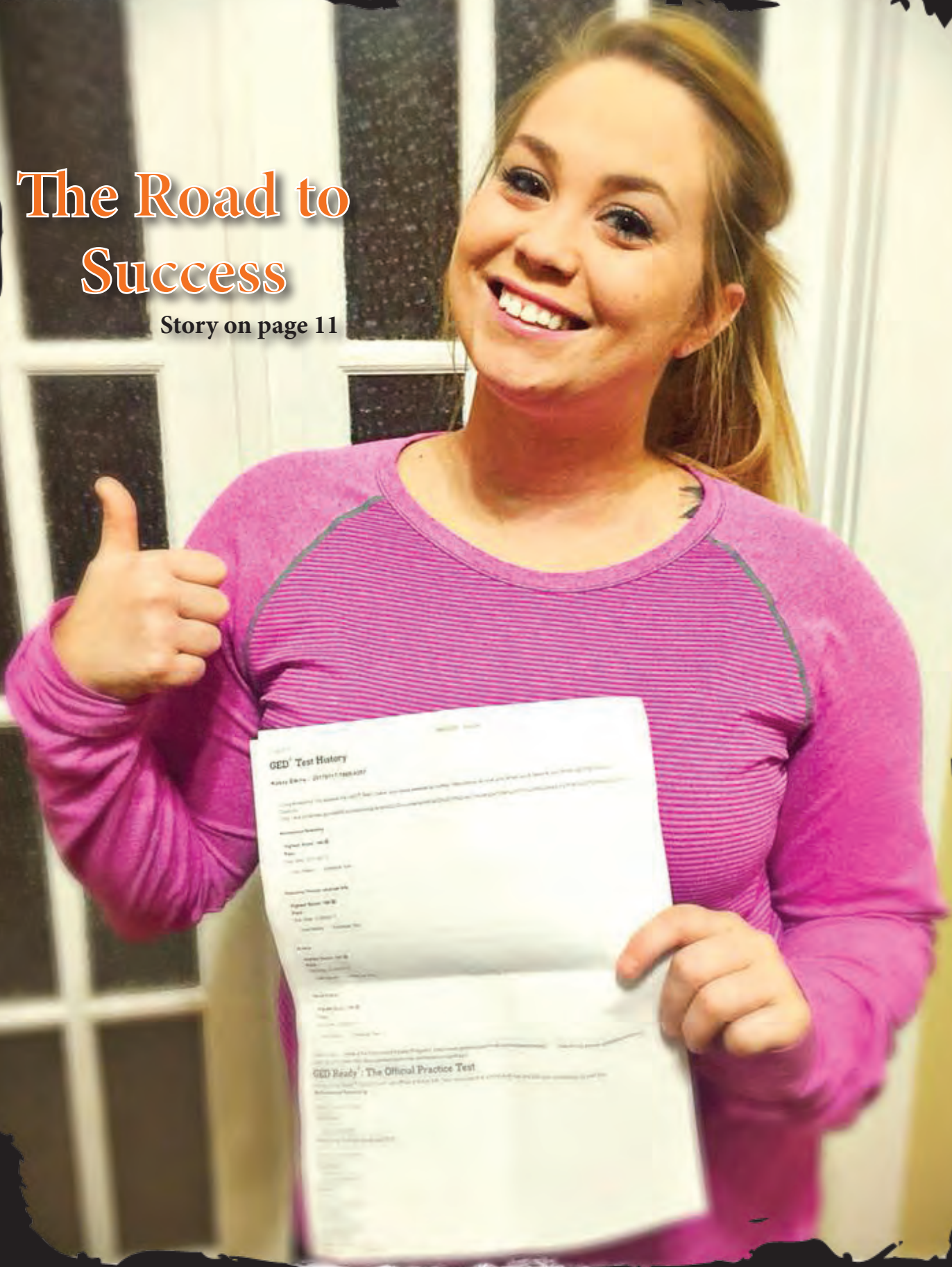


The Road to Success

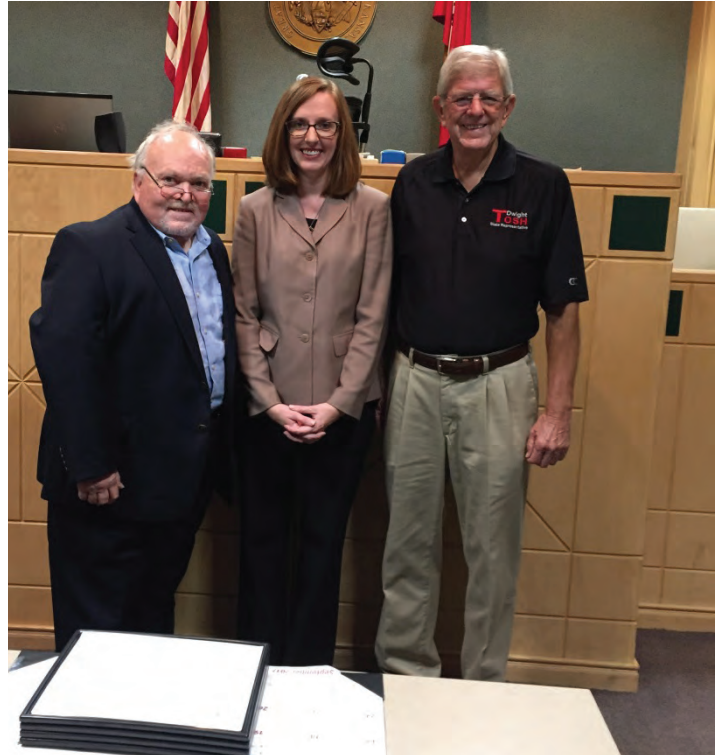
Story on page 11



Special graduates honored in Craighead County

In September, the Craighead County Drug Court held a very special Drug Court graduation as the four graduates completed with no sanctions being imposed by the judge, which is known as “graduating with honors.” Each graduate spoke and at times it became very emotional as they thanked their family, friends, and drug court staff for their help and support. They also gave encouragement to current participants. They told of how some were able to get custody of their children again and provided stories about how the staff went above and beyond to help them along their journey. These were four lives that have truly been changed. Congratulations to all.

Pictured at right is Judge David Laser (who founded the Drug Court in Craighead County in 2003), Judge Melissa Richardson and State Representative Dwight Tosh. Also in attendance were Prosecuting Attorney Scott Ellington and Craighead County Sheriff Marty Boyd and staff who provided everyone with a free cookout supper.



Pictured below are members of the Drug Court staff, SAPL Brenda Butler, SAPL Kristy Carr, Agent Kristy Beasley, Graduate Karee Fulbright and graduates Ashley Williams, Sara Armstrong, Stanton Popejoy, and ACC Agent Bryan Hook



Community Spirit
Published Quarterly by
Arkansas Community Correction

Asa Hutchinson, Governor
Sheila Sharp, Director
Kevin Murphy, Chief Deputy Director
Dina Tyler, Deputy Director
Jerry Bradshaw, Deputy Director
James Banks, Deputy Director
Chad Brown, Deputy Director

Board of Corrections Members

Benny Magness (Chair)
Dr. William “Dubs” Byers
John Felts
Senator Bobby Glover
Rev. Tyrone Broomfield
Buddy Chadick
Whitney Gass

Please send corrections/information
to:

Rhonda Sharp, Editor
rhonda.sharp@arkansas.gov
or
Dina Tyler
dina.tyler@arkansas.gov

Providing a link to resources in West Memphis

ACC's Area 9, which provides probation and parole supervision in Woodruff, Cross, Crittenden, St. Francis, Lee, Phillips and Monroe counties, held a Voices Behind the Wall Resource Fair that was geared toward bridging the gap with the community and the offenders with whom they work.

Each offender was encouraged to be accountable but to also understand they matter. They were inspired, motivated, and informed of community resources such as the East Arkansas Family Health Center, Mid-South Health System, Families in Transition/Domestic Violence Shelter and ACC's substance abuse program. There were break-out sessions that included HIV/AIDS facts, information, and testing, The Advantage Program for life and social skills, do's and don'ts at job interviews, and substance abuse facts and trivia. Grooming and beauty tips for each offender were included.

The event was open to the female residents at the East Central Arkansas Community Correction Center in West Memphis. Pictures on this page are from this event.





Gathering resources in Pulaski County's Area 8

A Presentation of Services Resource and Job Fair held in ACC's Area 8, which includes Pulaski and Lonoke Counties. The event was held to provide information on available resources, such as jobs, housing and other types of assistance to offenders in the area. Area 8 includes probation, parole and Drug Court offenders.



Mississippi County Drug Court offenders work at festival

During the fall, clients and staff of the Mississippi County Drug Court attended and participated in the festivities at the annual Leachville Harvest Festival. Drug Court operated and worked a dunking booth, which featured Officers from the Leachville Police Department being dunked with all proceeds being used for training at the Leachville Police Department.

The seven Drug Court offenders who helped out with the booth were Mark Robertson, Chelsea Shepherd, Tim Sullivan, Celeta Cagle, Courtney Casas, Paula Smith, and Steven Hamilton.

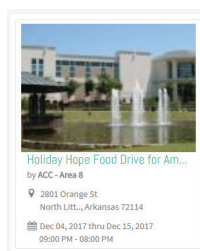
Drug Court offenders and personnel visited with folks at the festival and shared their experiences and involvement in the Drug Court and how it has made such a difference in their lives.

Also in attendance were Judge Ralph Wilson, Prosecutor Catherine Dean, Probation Officer Heidi McDaniel, Drug Court Advisor Jacquin Benson, Jr., and Administrative Assistant Donna Hilton.

Drug Court hopes to attend more local festivals in the area this fall.

Find information ...

... about what is going on in your community by visiting The Good Grid for reentry website:



<https://goodgrid.com/>

ACC staff trains in program to end violence

ACC's Southwest Arkansas Community Correction Center in Texarkana hosted the Duluth DAIP Creating a Process of Change for Men Who Batter Training during October. Funding for the program was provided by an RSAT grant.

ACC's treatment staff in the Texarkana area, the Omega Center in Malvern, Reentry staff and Little Rock treatment staff completed the training program.

The DAIP curriculum is grounded in the Duluth Model, a constantly evolving philosophy based in DAIP's work to end violence against women through a coordinated community response.

The philosophy and concepts that guide the material can be challenging for both new and experienced facilitators.

Training provides important opportunities for participants to understand the curriculum and the process of facilitation, to examine their motivation for doing batterer-intervention work, and to examine their beliefs about men who batter and women who are battered.

Training topics include:

- Understanding theories that guide or Creating a Process of Change for Men Who Batter
- Facilitating structured, interactive classes
- Establishing and maintaining dialogue while avoiding collusion
- Using control logs, exercises (including role-plays), and video vignettes
- Helping men identify and change beliefs that support violence
- Learning how Creating a Process of Change for Men Who Batter program fits within a Duluth Model inter-agency coordinated community response



**Are you looking
for a job?**

**Arkansas Community Correction hires
professional staff throughout the state for positions ranging
from**

**Correctional Officer to Counselor to Probation Officer.
For information about applying for a job at ACC, go to:
www.arstatejobs.com**

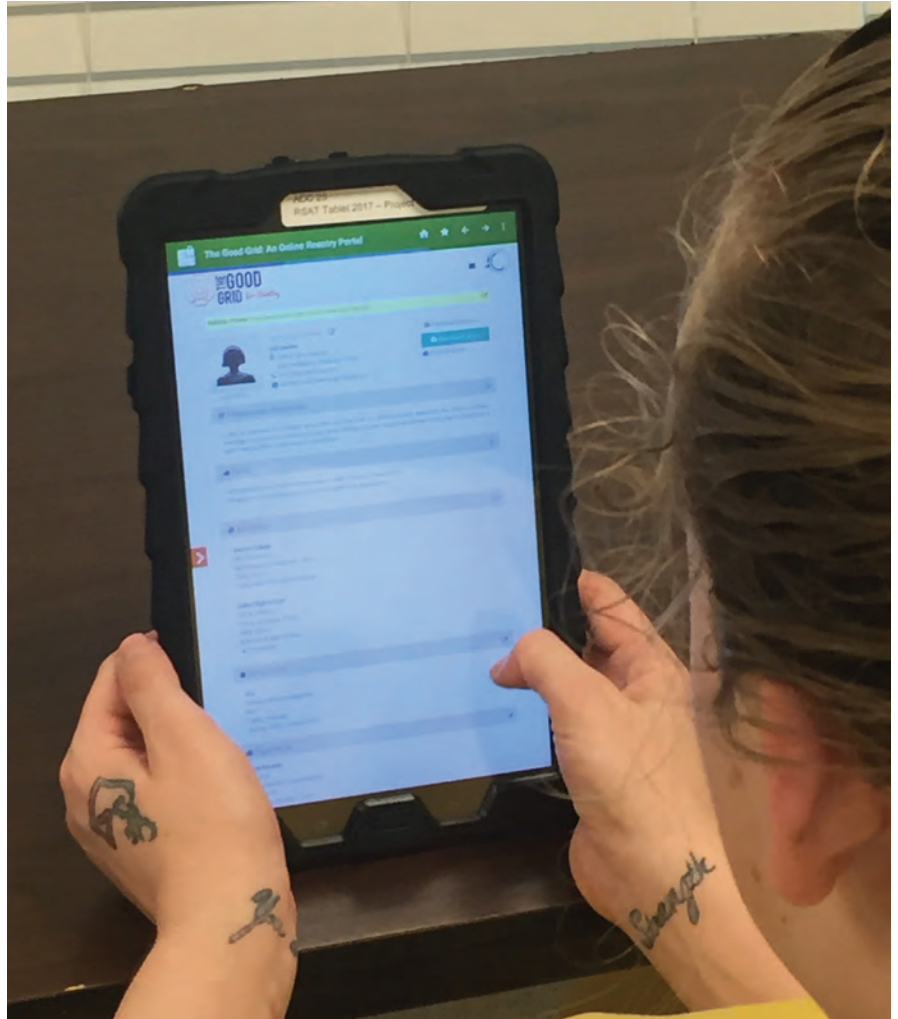
Tablet project allowing offenders access to the Good Grid

ACC's West Memphis Center is the location of a Good Grid tablet pilot project. Residents in the facility are able to access the tablets for use based on participation and status in their treatment program.

The first residents trained in the program and tested the pilots are called "Super-Users". These residents get extra time on the tablets as behavioral incentive and agreed to help other residents learn how to navigate the Good Grid system.

The Super-Users' feedback included that they love being able to access transitional housing options, fill out a letter of explanation that helps them navigate their felon status for employment, and work on skills. Residents can also build their resume, look for resources in the community, and save jobs for application once their resume is completed and they are released.

Pro Tech is developing treatment assignments and videos for residents and counselors to use as homework and educational treatment options.



Area 2 Drug Court busy during the fall season



Vicky Dewey, Drug Court Admin Specialist; Dana O'Quin Drug Court Officer and Chris Carter, Drug Court Prosecutor are shown at left attending the National Association of Drug Court Professionals' National Conference in Washington D.C.

According to the NADCP web site, The National Association of Drug Court Professionals (NADCP) is a national non-profit corporation founded in 1994 by pioneers from the first 12 Drug Courts in the nation.

This group of innovative judges, prosecutors, defense attorneys, and clinical professionals created a common-sense approach to improving the justice system by using a combination of judicial monitoring and effective treatment to compel drug-using offenders to change their lives.

From those visionaries came the Drug Court movement and ultimately the broader "problem-solving court" principles taught in law schools and utilized in everyday court practice throughout numerous municipal, state and federal court systems nationwide. Today with 3,057 Drug Courts in operation in all 50 states and U.S. territories, NADCP has forever changed the face of the justice system.

Drug Court Judge Gordon Webb is shown below at right with the area's most recent graduate, Brian Mitchell.

ACC Deputy Director for Probation and Parole Jerry Bradshaw, Assistant Director for Probation and Parole Mike Thomas, Area 2 Assistant Area Manager Danyaile Willing and Area 2 Area Manager Brian Zini are shown in the picture below attending a Drug Court graduation. Area 2 includes Carroll, Boone, Marion, Baxter, Fulton, Izard, Stone, Searcy, Newton and Van Buren Counties.



Drug Court graduation held in Lonoke

In November, the 23rd Judicial District Drug and Veterans Court of Lonoke County celebrated its annual Graduation Banquet hosted by Lonoke Baptist Church.

Dr. Emil Turner offered the welcome and prayer followed by Judge Sandy Huckabee with words of encouragement for the graduates. Guest speaker Cecil Kinley described how success in Drug Court paves the road for future success.

Dinner was served recognizing the following graduates: Rachel Bailey, Jennifer Brightwell, Lee Schafer, Alicia Moore, Jenny Moore, and Kelli Pence.

This annual banquet affords the participants of Drug Court and Veterans Court with the opportunity to receive recognition for their accomplishments and sobriety. It serves as a genuine validation by the community that they are deserve to be part of a community and have completed something worthy of recognition.

It was an honor for ACC staff to work closely with Elaine Moran and the other members of the Lonoke Baptist Church in the planning, preparation and execution of this event in recognizing the sobriety and life changing accomplishments of these honorees. Other dignitaries in attendance were the Honorable Judge Sandy Huckabee, Deputy Prosecutor Ben Hooper, a representative from Veterans Affairs, Sam High, and Kim Lloyd, who is the assistant area manager for ACC's Probation and Parole Area 7. The pictures on this page for from the event.



Offenders helping the elderly at Christmas



ACC's Area 3 Drug Court offenders adopted seniors in need in White county and delivered presents for Christmas.

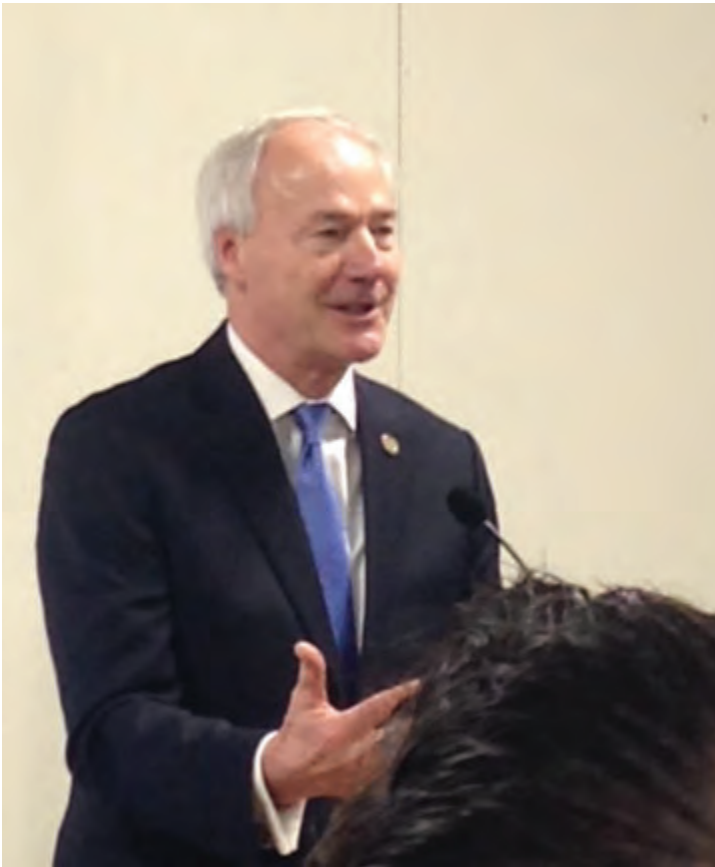
Along with many different presents, each received a bag of groceries.

All Drug Court participants helped, and the packages were delivered by van a few days before Christmas.

Offenders are shown below preparing the packages, at bottom with the completed packages and at left delivering the packages.



New career center to help with jobs



workforce. She also pointed out that the center was for everyone to use.

Governor Asa Hutchinson, shown at left, was the keynote speaker, and he brought out the high school students who are currently enrolled in the programs offered (such as nursing, automotive technology, HVAC, and electric).

He noted that it was wonderful to see so many bright, motivated students who are eager to join the workforce after graduation.

He expressed gratitude for all the hard work and said this type of program is needed in 50 more areas across Arkansas.

The governor pointed out that Arkansas is doing well with employment has unemployment below the national average.

He thanked everyone for all the hard work it took to get this center up and going in just four years.

The January grand opening ceremony for the Tyson Foods-Logan County Career Center in Paris heralds potential for ACC offenders in the area who are seeking employment.

ACC staff attended the event and met with Dennis Williamson of the Economic Development Administration for the Western Arkansas Planning and Development District to discuss new programs that will greatly benefit offenders, particularly those in reentry.

During the grand opening, the superintendent of Paris schools, Dr. Wayne Fawcett, gave the welcome speech and overview of the time and effort that was put in for have the facility in Logan County.

Mike Rodgers from Tyson Food, shown at right, spoke on the cooperation between the company and Arkansas communities to develop a work-ready workforce.

Dr. Robin E. Bowen, President of Arkansas Tech University, spoke about the cooperation of the college, the community and schools to make the Logan County area one of the best for young people entering the work force and for people who need training to reenter the



Reentry news from across the state

Kasey's Story - The Road to Success

She came to prison like so many others ... young, scared, and at the dead end of a trail littered with drug use, broken promises and unfulfilled potential. Kasey arrived at ADC with nine felony drug convictions and a ninth grade education. But how her life unraveled isn't what her story is about.

Kasey's story is about rebuilding. It began in prison. She behaved, took programs and never broke a rule. Not one. In August, Kasey left prison, headed to the Reclamation House in Jonesboro, which is part of ACC's reentry program.

Kasey was nervous during the ride there. This was a big change. And a big opportunity. But she wasn't sure she could do it. She talked about her learning disability, and how she believes it had kept her from landing jobs and getting her GED. Three weeks later, Kasey went to work in housekeeping at a local hotel.

She had only been on the job a couple of weeks when she was approached about stepping up to the front desk of the hotel. The front desk!

Again, she was nervous and haunted by her learning disability. But ACC Reentry Officer Christa Ethridge and Melissa Miller, the Case Manager at Reclamation House, were ready with encouragement. "You're rebuilding. Take the training, try the front desk, just do your best and see what happens. You might surprise yourself," they said.

Kasey listened... really listened. And today you'll find her at the front desk. And she's likely training some new employees, too.

This week, Kasey faced a huge hurdle....that GED test she needed but was terrified to take. School was hard for her, and she struggled at times. A learning disability will do that because it affects how information is received and processed and perhaps even more importantly, it can shatter confidence. Just like it had done to Kasey.

We are so very proud to announce that on November 28, Kasey earned her GED. And now she's encouraging others at Reclamation House to take the test. "This was the best experience in the worst part of my life," says Kasey. We beg to differ, Kasey ... this isn't the worst part of your life. It's the first part of the new life you're building. *(Kasey's photo is on the front cover)*

Holiday Resource & Employment Jubilee

The Good Grid sponsored a resource/career fair in Little Rock and had an excellent turnout. Representatives who attended included the Holiday Resource & Employment Jubilee from Our House, The Church at Rock Creek, the Office of Child Support Enforcement, UALR Trio Program, Protech, and Tyson to offer services and guidance. *(Additional photo on page 12.)*



Reentry news from across the state



Holiday Resource & Employment Jubilee

Getting back his license



We want to share a positive accomplishment in the life of Reentry resident Charles Conner.

He received his driver's license after not having one since 1989.

This is a huge milestone toward positive changes in his life. Congratulations Charles Conner.



A milestone day

It was a big day for Richard, above. If you look closely, you'll see that he is holding up a brand new driver's license - the first one he's ever had. Richard is a reentry participant, and he's been at Covenant Recovery in Pine Bluff since he got out of state prison in August. Richard is working full time and from all reports, he's doing great. If you ask him, he will tell you that he is focused on his recovery from drug addiction and on personal growth. Both are difficult and take a ton of work and determination. So far, he is nailing it!

Offenders wash cars for law enforcement

Last fall, a car wash was held at the Annex parking lot of the Craighead County Courthouse. Drug Court Agents Kristi Beasley and Bryan Hook, Officer Chris Shaver, and Drug Court Adm. Assistant Tammy Zagala coordinated and supervised 15 offenders (Drug Court, probation and parole) who washed and cleaned numerous vehicles for Area 4 and for other agencies including the Craighead County Sheriff's Department and the Jonesboro Police Department.



The Good Grid is a network of service providers that connects organizations like yours to resources & opportunities that help you do what you do better.

The Best Part?

It is 100% free and easy to create your own page and get started

When you connect, you will be able to:

- Post volunteer & full time opportunities to the community of Arkansans who are passionate about your organization
- Access & search a database of more than 100,000 services
- Publicize events (like fundraisers, marathons, etc.) to a community of social impact minded people
- Manage a microsite for your organization

CONNECT WITH YOUR COMMUNITY

SIGN UP

1. Open a Google Chrome Browser
2. Go to www.goodgrid.com
3. Click Sign up in the Right corner
4. Complete the Sign up process

1

CONFIRM YOUR ACCOUNT

1. Look for the APPROVAL email within 24 hours of signing up.
2. Click [Confirm](#)
3. Create your password and sign in.

2

QUESTIONS?

Once you sign up, if you have any questions contact us by phone, email, or a help desk ticket.

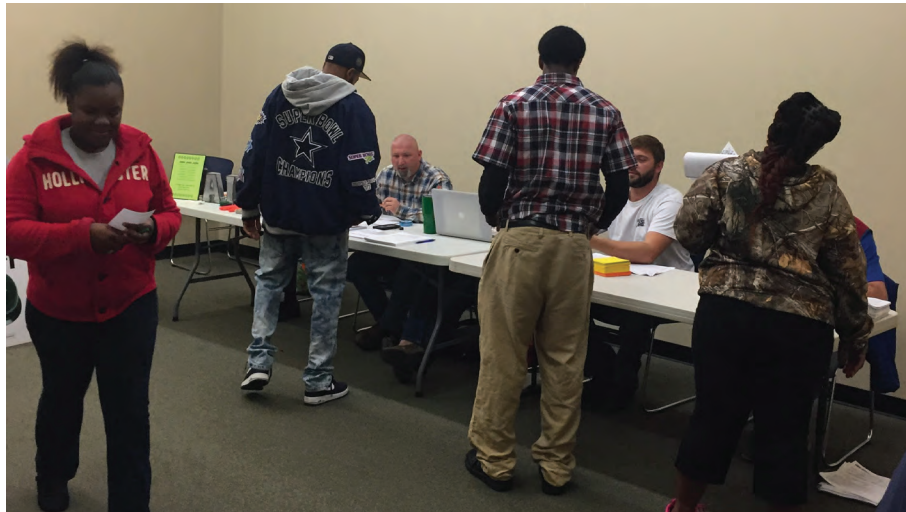
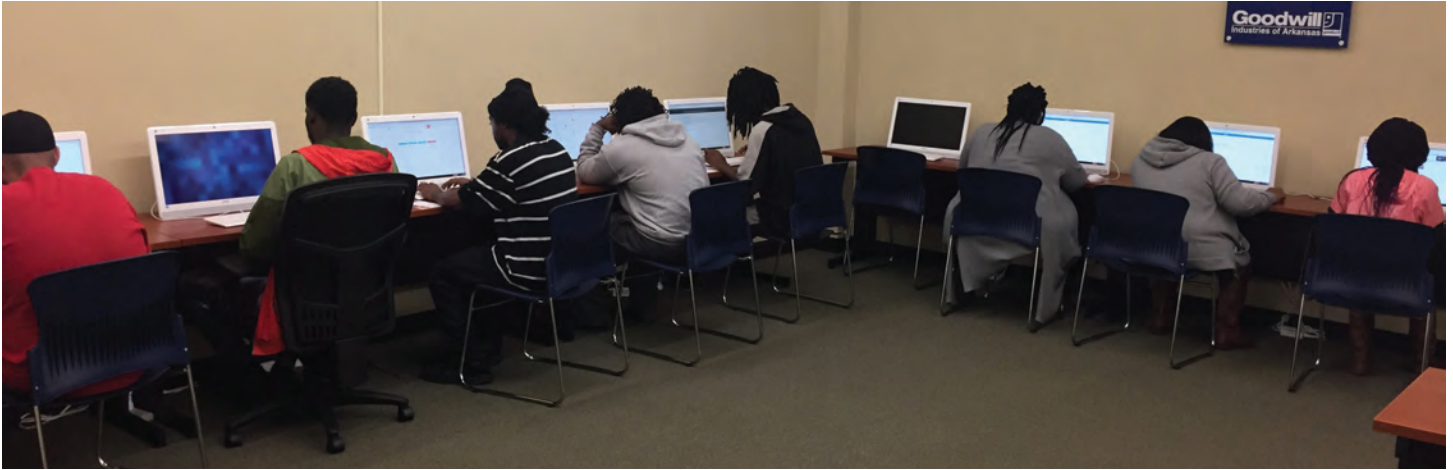
team@goodgrid.com or
(501) 687 2346

3

Reentry news from across the state

Holiday Hiring

Goodwill in Blytheville hosted its first Holiday Hiring event. In the first hour, approximately 60 attendees came through. Eight of them were ACC offenders looking for employment. The photos on this page are from the event.



Reentry news from across the state

Thanksgiving Sobriety Living Transitional House

Sobriety Living Transitional House staff provided a full Thanksgiving dinner to the residents at the facility, and ACC Mentor Coordinator Ardella Bearden, shown in the bottom photograph, stopped by for a visit with the residents. A positive effort on our part and mentors from the community can make a huge difference to offenders who are working to get their life back on track. Mentors can be the difference between success and failure. If you would like to know more about becoming a mentor, please contact Ardella Bearden at 501-743-0959.



Reentry news from across the state

Sobriety Living

Garry, at right, has been in and out of prison since he was 15 years old. No matter how many times he said he was never going back, he always did.

This time, though, is different. When Garry left state prison this time, he went to the Sobriety Living Center, which is part of ACC's reentry program. That is where Garry truly discovered potential he never knew he had.

He started going to school at SEARK. And he excelled in class. His GPA is 3.6, which is impressive. Recently, Garry's time at Sobriety Living ended, but his new life has not.

He is going to finish his education at U of A in Ft. Smith. That is where he is headed now, and he is not going alone. The dog in the picture with him is Sissy. She was abandoned, but Garry rescued her while he was at the center.



Good Grid Training at North Arkansas College

Boone County Probation/Parole Offenders are shown below attending the Good Grid training conducted by Reentry Officer Cody Stafford with assistance from Officer Shaun Wiseman.



Reentry news from across the state

Helping in the community

Covenant residents in Malvern are shown assisting in cleaning up after a fatality accident.



Paragould Job Fair

Another great job fair with Goodwill Career Center. More than 100 attendees, approximately 15 offenders seeking employment, and 25 employers were in attendance.



Reentry news from across the state

Safe Harbor Christmas

More than 80 offenders spent Christmas at the Safe Harbor reentry center, but don't think for a second that the day went unnoticed or uncelebrated. There was a special gathering with a huge dinner, songs, prizes and awards. Carl Williams received the Student Volunteer of the Year award and Jerry Byers was named Watchman of the Year. The facility was awarded the Ministry of the Year from Lighthouse Ministries. Safe Harbor's Pastor and Director, Eric Alexander, was named Pastor of the Year and Gary Williams was awarded Staff Member of the Year. Since it was Christmas, every reentry offender received new shoes and a gift card to Burlington Coat Factory.



Reentry news from across the state



Mentor Match at Phoenix

These are the women, shown above, who answered when ACC put out a call in Little Rock for mentors to work with offenders who are getting ready to return to the community. When the call for help went out, it was Annette Thomas-Jones from St. Mark's Church who responded with support and people. The women in this picture provided mentoring to eight women from the Phoenix House through the holiday season. That is important because the holidays can be especially tough for offenders. All of the mentors were trained before being partnered with an offender. In case you don't know, mentors can have a tremendous impact on reentry. They make reentry easier and more successful. So, if you really want to make a difference in the community - please join us. Be a mentor! For information about becoming a mentor, contact Ardella Bearden at 501-743-0959.



Job Readiness Class

Greg Bodiford from Department of Workforce is shown at left conducting a Job Readiness Class at the Returning Home Center in Springdale in mid-September.

**When you are looking
for a new career with
Arkansas Community
Correction, you'll find the
agency's open positions at:
www.arstatejobs.com**

Reentry news from across the state

Fort Smith Department of Workforce Services Job Readiness Class

Reentry Officer Derek Wilson and Career Placement & Planning Specialist Paula Cox are shown at right with a full house of offenders attending the Job Readiness Class presented by the Department of Workforce Services at the Fort Smith Parole Office.



Covenant Recovery resident has exciting first in work

Kevin Pennington, shown at left, received his first ever pay check in mid-September. He is employed with Big Red Travel Plaza.

**Are you interested
in becoming a
mentor to an
offender?**

Contact Ardella

Bearden at

501-743-0959

or by e-mail at

ardella.bearden@arkansas.gov

Mentoring is a rewarding way to help the people in your community

Reentry news from across the state



Jonesboro Good Grid Class

Approximately 15 offenders attended a recent Good Grid Class where they completed their resume and letter of explanation. Each offender left with copies of them. The offenders then spoke to one of three Goodwill Career Specialists who looked over the resumes and guided them to employers who are looking for employees with their skills and are felon friendly. Pictures from the event are above and below.

